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CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

REPORT NO. [REDACTED]

INFORMATION REPORT

CD NO.

COUNTRY Germany (Russian Zone)

DATE DISTR. 29 May 1950

SUBJECT Production of the VVP "Kautas"
Rubber Plant, Riesa

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1. The rubber plant in Riesa (N 52/E 81), as stated on 8 April 1949,
is a subsidiary plant of the VVB Kautas (Leipzig (N 52/E 21))
and was built from the former Vulcanization Plant in Riesa in 1945.

Management : Eichstaedt and Weinhold.

Office workers : 50.

Hired labor : 480 men.

2. Fifty percent of the finished products, mainly automobile tires
and tubes, is delivered to the SMA.
3. The produced automobile tires and tubes have the following measure-
ments :

5.00 x 16,	5.50 x 17,
5.25 x 16,	6.00 x 17,
5.50 x 16,	6.50 x 17,
6.00 x 16,	7.00 x 17,
6.50 x 16,	7.50 x 20,
7.00 x 16,	8.75 x 20,
4.75 x 17,	12.75 x 20,
5.00 x 17,	

4. Survey on current production in 1945 and in January 1949 :

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	pieces:	Value in DM :
a Automobile tires 1948:	17,755	3,454,000
January 1949:	2620	833,900
b Automobile tubes 1948:	8,917	96,000
January 1949:	900	16,700
c Bicycle tires 1948 :	1,018	5,600
January 1949:	229	1,300
d Bicycle tubes 1948 :	5,195	15,600
January 1949:	2,612	7,300
e V-belts 1948 :	5,382	29,400
January 1949:	1,040	6,000

5. The 1948 turnover was :

Tires and tubes	3,104,600
Repairs (vulcanization)	477,000
Miscellaneous rubber items	183,200
	<hr/>
Main products	3,764,800
Reduction of proceeds	17,300
	<hr/>
	3,747,500
Secondary products	29,900
Miscellaneous	57,900
	<hr/>
	3,835,300

6. The 1947 and 1948 losses, caused mainly by large-scale expansion work and installation of new machinery to increase the production of certain articles, were as follows :

1947: RM 844,900	RM 1948: 574,000 (up to 31 July 1948)
	DM 366,900 (since 1 August 1948)

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7. 1949 planning figures (Two -Year Plan)

	pieces :	sales price:
a Automobile tires	30,000	8,351,350
b Automobile tubes	30,000	756,440
c Bicycle tires	5,000	22,400
d Bicycle tubes	50,000	150,000
e V-belts	20,000	50,000
		9,478,190

These planning figures fully utilize the present plant capacity. A further production increase is reached by the already started gradual mechanization of operation stages, so far made by hand. The schedule, therefore, is said to be increased by about 15,000 automobile tires for the second, third, and fourth quarter of 1949.

Production in the first half-year of 1948 was worth 1,049,200 DM and in the second half-year of 1948 3,105,100 DM, thus totaling 4,154,300 DM in 1948. However, the 1949 schedule amounts to 9,478,190 DM and therefore provides for an increase of 128 percent (5,322,900 DM) compared to the 1948 production figure.

The 1949 January quota is fulfilled about 25 percent above schedule.

8. The Economic Officer of the SMA Land Saxony, for the Riesa Rubber Plant is Col Rogov.

F-4 9. In January 1949 the following was stated :

Work force : 400
 Daily production : 220 pieces
 Monthly production : 6,600 pieces
 Annual production : 80,000 pieces
 Annual capacity: 120,000 pieces

10. This plant as well as the Heidenau (N 51/F 33) Rubber Plant is short of cord weavings. Formerly 14 layers of cord were worked into one passenger car tire. It now has been reduced to six or seven layers. Therefore the wearing resistance is very slight. The tires break after about 1,000 kilometers.

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11. Fifty percent of the production is delivered to the Occupation Power, mainly to the Kirchmoser (N 53/F 38) Plant near Brandenburg on the Havel River.

12. The tire sizes are the same as those produced in the Heidenau Plant : The following sizes are produced :

450 x 16

550 x 17

600 x 20 (?)

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13.

Twenty-five hundred tires in sizes ranging from 10.00 x 20 to 12.00 x 24 are delivered monthly by the Riesa Rubber Plant to Soviet units and agencies. (Work force : 400 workmen).

14. In January 1949 it was stated that :

On 24 January 1949 all responsible employees of the Nationalized Riesa Rubber Plant were arrested because of alleged blackmarket dealings. Only the former owner (later plant manager) [redacted] allegedly succeeded in escaping to the US Zone of Germany with his papers shortly before his arrest. He intended to go to his home, Vienna. 25X1

a. The following employees of the rubber plant were put in prison pending further investigation :

(1) [redacted] chief clerk

(2) [redacted], chief foreman

(3) [redacted] plant advisor.

(4) Some leading SED members of the municipality are said to be compromised as they used their supervisory function to gain personal profits.

15. Since these arrests the production management is transferred to Engineer Bessler who came from Hannover (L 53/X 32) Continental Plant.

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16. Soviet economic officers were once more assigned to the Riesa Rubber Plant. The Soviet supervising unit has the [redacted] It consists of 4 economic officers and 42 MM, billeted in two neighboring houses.

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Comment :

a. Lighty-five percent of the entire German rubber production capacity was centered in Western Germany at the end of the war. Practically 100 percent of the tire industry is in the Western Zones and Berlin. The Soviet dismantlings in the Soviet Zone of Germany rubber industry reduced still more the Soviet Zone rubber production share.

b. As the zonal separation prevented normal economic cooperation, the Soviets were compelled to rebuild their Soviet Zone rubber industry and to adjust its capacity to the Soviet Zone requirements. The tire industry had to be rebuilt almost completely. The costs for the reconstruction of the Riesa Plant can be seen from the indication of the para (6). According to other reports two rolling mills, one Bunbury giant rolling mill, one mangle, automatic drums, automatic heaters for profile stamping, Buna boilers and one transformer for 60,000 volt will be established in the plant in 1949/1950.

c. The plant was the Döfner Rubber Plant before its expropriation. It is now a zonal plant and assigned to the Kautas VVB (Z) with the Plant No. 57/383/0101. Information on this plant was given in a previous report. Detailed information on the 1949 planning in the entire rubber industry including tire production was also furnished in previous reports.

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